

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plant stand, comprising:

at least one ring; and

at least two ~~three~~ vertical supports, configured to slide around the circumference of said at least one ring without being disengaged from said at least one ring.

~~an indentation on said at least two vertical supports;~~

~~a bend at the end of each of said at least two vertical supports, said bend being below said indentation;~~

~~at least one ring attached to said at least two vertical supports;~~

~~a ridge on said at least one ring, said ridge protruding from said at least one ring and in communication with said indentation on said at least two vertical supports; and~~

~~wherein said at least two vertical supports are arranged to slide along said at least one ring while remaining attached to said at least one ring, so that said at least two vertical supports can touch one another.~~

2-11 (Canceled)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The stand of claim 1, wherein said bend has sufficient width to accommodate a foot of a human user, so that a human user may apply pressure with a foot atop said bend to force said at least three vertical supports into the earth.

13. (NEW) The stand of claim 1, wherein said at least one ring is permanently attached to said at least three vertical supports and configured to prevent loss of said at least one ring and said at least three vertical supports.

14. (NEW) The stand of claim 1, wherein said at least three vertical supports are slidably engaged on said at least one ring, and when said three vertical supports are touching one another, the stand collapses to be stored in a flat position.

15. (NEW) A plant stand, comprising:

at least one ring, configured to collapse flat against said vertical supports; and
at least three vertical supports, configured to slide around the
circumference of said at least one ring without being disengaged from said at least one
ring.

16. (NEW) The plant stand of claim 1, further comprising:

an indentation on each of said at least three vertical supports;
a bend at the end of each of said at least three vertical supports, said bend being
below said indentation; and
a ridge on each of said at least one ring, said ridge protruding from said at least
one ring and in communication with said indentation on said at least three vertical
supports.